



**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Daria-Lyric Montaquila
Community Relations Specialist
401-413-8496
dmontaquila@housingnetworkri.org

**Housing Network of Rhode Island Named One of
Bank of America's 2022 Neighborhood Builders**

Providence – The Housing Network of Rhode Island is honored to have been named one of two Rhode Island awardees of the 2022 Bank of America Neighborhood Builders® grant for its work in the community to advance policy and program reform aimed at increasing access to affordable homes and improving housing and economic stability for low income Rhode Islanders.

The Housing Network of Rhode Island is the statewide association of 16 Community Development Corporations and nonprofit developers committed to the development and preservation of affordable homes and thriving communities. Our members have built and developed thousands of affordable homes and support numerous neighborhood revitalization and community development efforts across Rhode Island. The Housing Network supports its members and contributes to the overall housing sector by: advocating for policies and programs to further the development and preservation of affordable housing and economic development of our neighborhoods; championing our member organizations as critically important community partners; and convening our members and allied organizations to build capacity, collaborate, and to learn from one another and national partners.

As part of our advocacy, the Housing Network of Rhode Island serves as the backbone entity for *Homes RI*, a multi-sector coalition of organizations working together to increase and preserve the supply of safe, healthy and affordable homes throughout Rhode Island. During the 2022 legislative session, Homes RI organized and focused its collective advocacy efforts on securing a substantive portion of the \$1.1 billion in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds that Rhode Island received for investment into housing and homelessness, resulting in a historic allocation of \$250 million of funding to support for an array of housing and homelessness activities.

Outside of coalition-wide targeted advocacy, our Executive Director, Melina Lodge, maintains a continuous presence in the housing policy arena in and out of the State House, serving on numerous commission and advisory panels, including the Special Legislative Low and Moderate

Income Housing Commission and the Housing Resources Commission. During the 2022 session, Lodge lent her expertise in improving policies that supported the production of new housing options, improved state administration processes, increased tenant protections, and other critical policy changes. During the session, the Housing Network of Rhode Island provided testimony on over 40 housing related bills heard in the State House, about half of which became law.

“The Housing Network of Rhode Island serves as a convener and facilitator to elevate housing at the federal, state and local levels. The impact of this award will be transformative in supporting our efforts to drive cross-sector collaboration and community connections to advance equitable housing policies and promote the development of safe, healthy and affordable homes in Rhode Island. We are honored by Bank of America’s recognition of the impact our work has had on the housing sector and are excited to partner with the bank to strengthen our collective capacity to make Rhode Island a more equitable place to live for all Rhode Islanders,” said Lodge.

Bank of America’s Neighborhood Builders program – the nation’s largest investment into nonprofit leadership development – provides awardees \$200,000 in flexible funding and leadership development training to advance economic mobility in Rhode Island. Our organization expresses our deepest gratitude to Bank of America, a company “guided by a common purpose to help make financial lives better, through the power of every connection.” for its recognition of the connection that housing affordability and stability plays in Rhode Islander’s lives to achieve economic security and success.

###